

The Golden Treasury:  
OR, THE  
Compleat Minor.  
BEING  
Royal Institutions, or Proposals  
FOR  
ARTICLES  
To Establish and Confirm  
Laws, Liberties & Customs  
OF  
*Silver & Gold Mines,*  
TO ALL

The KING's Subjects, in such Parts of  
*AFRICA* and *AMERICA*, which are Now (or  
Shall be Annexed to, and Dependant on the  
CROWN of England.

With Rules, Laws and Methods of Mi-  
ning, and Getting of Precious Stones; The Work-  
ing and Making of Salt-Peter; And also, The  
Digging and Getting of Lead, Tin, Copper, and  
Quick-Silver-Oars, in Any or Either of those  
Countries, Whereby Navigation, and Trade,  
with the Subjects Interest and Riches, together  
with the CROWN's Revenues, would be  
greatly Encreased in a little Time.

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Most Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the King's  
most Excellent Majesty, & this Present Parliament.

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LONDON, Printed for the Author, and  
sold by J. Marshal at the Bible in Grace-  
church-street, 1699.

Comptroler General

of the Treasury

Washington

July 1st 1862

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

Wm. A. Rorer

Assistant Comptroler General

of the Treasury

Washington

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TO THE  
KING'S  
MOST  
Excellent Majesty;

Together, with the Present  
PARLIAMENT  
Assembled this Thirtieth Day  
of February, 1699

Great Cæsar, and Senators,

In all Humility, most Humbly I inform You

**T**Here is nothing more  
Certain and True,  
Than that there are ma-

A 2

ny

## The PREFACE.

*my extraordinary Rich  
Veyns, Mines, and Mi-  
neral Countries, in  
some Parts of America,  
which are now Annexed  
to, and Dependant on the  
CROWN of England;  
(the Experience and Truth  
of which, nothing but want  
of Skill in Mineral Af-  
fairs, and Incredulity,  
can or will deny); which  
Veyns and Mines, if  
they was Sought for, and  
Set*



## THE PREFACE.

*Set to Work, by any that understands them, would undoubtedly, in a little Time, prove as Rich as any the Spaniards have in Peru, or on the North Side of the Æquinox, in New-Spain; and, in a few Years, would produce and raise great Quantities of Silver, Gold, Copper, and other Valuable Things, to the great Content and Sa-*

## The PREFACE.

*tisfaction of the English;  
provided there was any  
Regular LAWS, RULES,  
and METHODS Settled,  
for Working, and Carry-  
ing on the said Mines;  
by which LAWS, the En-  
terprisers, or Under-  
takers thereof, might  
Enjoy and Secure their  
Rights, Interests, and  
Properties therein, to  
Them, their Heirs, and  
Assigns, after they have  
been*

## The PREFACE.

*been at the Cost and Charges of Finding and Discovering the said Mines. But, as the Royalties thereof stand, at present, (in their respective and separate Grants from the CROWN) to a few PROPRIETORS, who formerly bath not, at present doth not, nor hereafter, in all Probability, will not use any effectual Ways and Means to Work and Discover*

## The PREFACE.

*cover the same; whereby  
this excellent Undertak-  
ing hath hitherto been  
Neglected and Slighted,  
and is yet rendred Imprac-  
ticable to all English-  
Men; and so will remain  
to Posterity; by which,  
many Rich Veyns and  
Mines have been, are, &  
will be of no Benefit; but  
continue Void, and utterly  
Lost, unless some further  
Care be taken, than yet  
hath*

## The PREFACE.

*hath been, for Settling and  
Metbodizing the same:  
The evil Circumstances of  
which, hath been, is, and  
will be, if not remedied,  
an unvaluable Loss to the  
English Nation, in Ne-  
glecting to give all due  
Encouragement to improve  
this Honourable Enter-  
prize; which would greatly  
encrease the Revenues of  
the CROWN, and advance  
the English Nation's In-  
terest,*

## The PREFACE.

terest, to an unspeakable Degree, in a little Time. Therefore, that the King's most excellent Majesty, in his Princely Wisdom; together with this Present Parliament, would be Graciously Pleas'd to take it into Consideration, and amend this Miscbief, by making the following ARTICLES, (or some such other, as the Government shall approve off)

## The PREFACE.

off) for Standing LAWS,  
and CUSTOMS, to be Ob-  
served and Practised by  
all the KING's Subjects  
in America; whereby the  
Enterprize would become  
National to the English  
Posterity, and every Free-  
Born Subject have Liberty  
to Seek, Find, and Enjoy  
the Fruit of his Labours;  
Paying to the CROWN,  
the Duties and Reser-  
vations here-after men-  
tioned,

## The PREFACE.

*tioned, Is the sole Desire,  
and earnest Request of,*

Your most Humble,

Most Dutiful, and most

Obedient Petitioner,

*Thom. Houghton.*

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Royal



[ 1 ]

# ROYAL Institutions,

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## Article I.

**T**HAT it is the  
Right and Pre-  
rogative of the  
**CROWN**, to Elect  
and Choose an Offi-  
cer, and Officers, for  
B the

## 2 *Royal Institutions.*

the Management of  
the *Royal Treasures*,  
when and where Oc-  
casion doth or shall re-  
quire, to take the Care  
and Charge of the  
KING's Part, in all  
*Royal Mines*; and also,  
in all Mines of *Base  
Metal*, where the Roy-  
alties yet remain an-  
nexed to the Crown;  
Which Officer, and  
Officers, shall be Sworn  
to

*Royal Institutions.* 3

to do Right and Justice, as much as in Him or Them lieth, (according to the best of his or their Skill and Knowledge) between his Sovereign Majesty the KING, and the *Miner*, *Maintainer*, or *Venturer*; and also, between *Miner* and *Miner*, and *Miner* and *Maintainer* of such Mines; and shall ei-

B 2 ther

#### 4 *Royal Institutions.*

ther Himself, or by  
his or their Lawful  
Deputy or Deputies,  
duly Execute, and  
faithfully put in Pra-  
ctice, amongst the *Min-  
ners and Adventurers*,  
and all other of the  
K I N G's Subjects,  
these A R T I C L E S,  
as Rules, Laws, and  
Customs, fit to be  
kept and observed, in  
all Parts of *Africa, A-  
merica,*

*Royal Institutions.* 5

*merica, or the West-India Islands, where any Silver or Gold Mines, or any other Mines of Tin, Lead, Copper, Quick-Silver, Precious Stones, and Salt - Petre, shall be Found, Dug, Made, and Discovered hereafter; which Officer shall be called the Bar-Master; and shall remain Overseer and Supervisor of the Roy-*

## 6 *Royal Institutions.*

*al Mines, and other  
Mines of Base Metal,  
for the KING's Part,  
during his Majesty's  
Pleasure.*

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## Article II.

**T**HAT all or any  
of the KING's  
Subjects, of what De-  
gree, Quality, or E-  
state

*Royal Institutions.* 7

state soever they be,  
shall have full Power,  
& free Liberty to Dig,  
Delve, Work, Mine,  
and Break up Ground  
in any of the Coun-  
tries afore-said, to  
seek for Silver, Gold,  
Lead, Tin, Copper, Quick-  
Silver, Precious Stones,  
and Salt-Petre, in any  
Part or Place whatso-  
ever, Houses, Or-  
chards, Gardens, and  
En-

8. *Royal Institutions.*

Enclosures of Sugar-works excepted, upon the Terms and Conditions following: That is to say, He or they who findeth them, or any of them, shall pay to the KING's Officer, for the Use of the KING, in Oars ready drest, and cleansed from the Earth, Stone, and Rubbish, made fit for Smelting, Melting,



*Royal Institutions.* 9

Melting, and Refining; Of all *Gold* and *Silver Oars*, one Sixth Part; And of all *Lead*, *Tin*, *Copper*, *Quick-Silver-Oars*, and *Precious Stones*, one Twelfth Part; And of all *Salt-Petre*, every Twelfth Tunn: For Payment of which Sixth and Twelfth Parts, as afore-said, every *Miner*, *Maintainer*, or any  
of

10 *Royal Institutions.*

of the KING's Subjects, shall have free Liberty to Dig, Work, & Break up Grounds in any of the Countries afore-said; except in such Places, as is before excepted.

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Article

## Art. III.

**T**HAT all Rakes,  
or Veyns of Sil-  
ver or Gold, Lead, Tin,  
Copper, and Quick-Sil-  
ver, and all Pipes and  
Flat-Works of Preci-  
ous Stones, or Salt-Petre,  
shall, in three Days  
Time next after they,  
or any of them are  
found,

## 12 *Royal Institutions.*

found, be possess with  
one pair of Stowes or  
more, by the Owners  
or first Finders there-  
of; and Notice shall  
be given, or sent to  
the KING's Officer,  
by Word of Mouth  
or Writing, concern-  
ing the same, within  
three Months Time  
next after such Veyn  
or Veyns, Rake or  
Rakes, Pipe or Pipes,  
Flat-

Flat-Work or Flat-  
Works are Found and  
Discovered; and, for  
want of such Officer,  
to the Minister of the  
Parish, or the next Ma-  
gistrate, or Justice of  
the Peace, or Gover-  
nour of the Place,  
where such Mines are  
Found, who shall im-  
mediately go or send  
his Deputy to the said  
Mine, Rake, Veyn,  
C Pipe,

#### 14 *Royal Institutions.*

Pipe, or Flat-Work, and shall there Measure out as many Meers of Ground, as the *Owner* or *Owners* thereof have Stowes set in quiet Possession; which Meers of Ground he shall deliver to the first *Finder*, or *Owners* thereof, and shall Register that Veyn, Rake, Pipe or Flat-Work, by  
such

*Royal Institutions.* 15

such Name, as the Owners think fit to give it; the Miner, Owner, or Finder thereof Paying to the Bar-Master, or his Deputy, Ten Shillings for every Meer of Ground he or they shall so Measure out and Register; each Meer of Ground containing Twenty Nine Yards of Ground in Length: Upon every

C 2

of

16 *Royal Institutions.*

of which Meer of  
Ground, a pair of  
Stowes shall stand to  
keep Possession, as a-  
foresaid, within which  
Length of Ground,  
no Person or Persons  
shall presume to Work,  
Dig, or Break up  
Ground, in Order to  
get Oar therein, with-  
out the Leave and  
Consent of the *Owner*,  
or first *Finder* thereof,  
whe-



whether *Gold*, or any other Metal whatsoever.

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## Art. IV.

THAT it is, and shall be, Lawful for any Person to Cross, Stow, and take Possession of either of the Extreame or Ends

C 3

of

18 *Royal Institutions.*

of all Rakes, Veyns, Pipes and Flat-Works so found, where the Right and Possession of the next *Owner* expires, either at the Measuring out of the first Meers of Ground, or before; and he who shall first break Ground by the Making of a Cross or Crosses, and shall Own and Prove himself to be

be the first Taker at the Finder, or to him or them that Holdeth and Enjoyeth the next Possession, and shall set on one pair of Stowes or more, within Three Days Time next after the Making of such Cross or Crosses, or breaking of Ground, shall be Judged and Concluded to have the Right,

20 *Royal Institutions.*

Right, Interest, and Possession of the next Ten Meers of Ground in the same Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, there - unto adjoyning, at whither End or Side soever it is, or shall be; provided he or they shall and do set on the other Nine pair of Stowes, within Three Days Time next after the  
the

the Making of such  
Cross or Crosses; and  
shall Pay the *Bar-Ma-*  
*ster*, or his Deputy,  
Ten Shillings for Re-  
gistering and Measu-  
ring out each Meer  
of Ground; at which  
Time, Stakes shall  
be driven down, or  
Marks made to deter-  
mine and shew the  
End of the same. But  
if he or they, who have  
made

22 *Royal Institutions.*

made such Crosse or  
Crosses, and broken  
Ground, Neglect or  
Refuse to set on One  
Pair of Stowes or  
more, where such  
Crosse or Crosses was  
made, within Three  
Days Time next after  
the Making thereof;  
that *then* it shall be *free*  
& *lawful* for any other  
Person to Crosse, Take,  
and Set on Stowes,  
and

and Possess those Ten Meers of Ground, and shall Hold and Enjoy the same to himself, or his Assigns, giving the *Bar-Master*, or his Deputy, Notice thereof, and Paying for Registering and Measuring these Meers of Ground, as afore-said. And thus every one shall be served, sooner or later, in the same Rake,

## 24 *Royal Institutions.*

Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, whether it be *Silver, Gold, Lead, Tin, Copper, Quick-Silver, Precious Stones, or Salt-Petre*, according to his or their Antiquity of Crossing, or Breaking of Ground, and Setting on of Stowes, as is afore-said.

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Article



## Art. V.

**T**HAT after the  
Ground is Pos-  
sessed with Stowes, Mea-  
sured, Marked out,  
and Registered, if a-  
ny Man's Stowes be  
Stol'n off, and taken  
away by any Malici-  
ous Person, or by a-  
ny Indirect Way or  
D Means

26 *Royal Institutions.*

Means shall be Carried or Taken from the Places where they or any of them Stood, That it shall not be Lawful for any Person or Persons to Set his or their Stowes, or Possess the same Ground, or to Work therein, or in any Part of it, for three Months Time next after; and at the End of the three Months,

- Months, he or they  
a who desires to be Om-  
y ners and Possessors of  
l, the same, shall go or  
e send to the Bar-Ma-  
- ster, or his Deputy, or  
t to the Minister of the  
Parish, or to some o-  
e ther Person, as afore-  
k said, and acquaint  
t him or them there-  
s with; where - upon  
d the Officer or Person,  
e so acquainted, shall  
s, D 2 Write

28 *Royal Institutions.*

Write or send to the late *Owner* or *Owners* thereof, to whom the Right of those Meers of Ground did belong, or to some of his or their Agents; and shall give them Notice, That unless he or they set on New Stowes upon those Meers of Ground, and Dig or Work in some Part of it, within three Months

Months Time next after such Notice given, That his or their Right in and to those Ten Meers of Ground will be given away: But if the *Bar-Master*, or other *Officer*, knows not how or where to Write or Send to such *Owner* or *Owners*, nor any of their Agents, to give him or them Notice thereof, Then the

30 *Royal Institutions.*

*Bar-Master*, or his Deputy, shall go to that Ground, and shall take Three or Four Persons along with him, and shall there make open PROCLAMATION, upon the Mine, some Time of the Day, between the Hours of Eight of the Clock in the Morning, and Two in the Afternoon, in the hear-

hearing of such Persons as go along with him, That unless the late *Owner*, or *Owners* thereof, shall set on new *Stowes*, and make *Workman-ship* in some Part of those *Meers* of *Ground*, within *Three Months* Time next after such *PROCLAMATION*, so that the *Mine* may be set forwards, and wrought

32 *Royal Institutions.*

wrought for the Publick Good of the KING, and his Subjects: That for such Neglect, those Ten Meers of Ground in that Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, will be given away to others, and his or their Names, that was late in Possession, will be raced out of the Register, and new Owners  
put



*Royal Institutions.* 33

put into Possession,  
and their Names Re-  
gistered: And this  
P R O C L A M A T I O N  
shall determine the  
Right and Interest  
thereof. And fur-  
thermore, Every Per-  
son and Persons what-  
soever, having Possess  
and Stowed up the  
Ground, as afore said,  
whether it be Rake,  
Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-  
Work,

34 *Royal Institutions.*

Work, shall do and perform some actual Work, by Digging and Mining, in some Part of that Ground, in Twelve Months Time next after it is so Stowed and Possessed, as afore-said; or else it is, and shall be, Lawful to and for the Bar-Master, or the KING's Officer, to throw off those Stowes, so set  
on,

on, and to set on the  
Stowes of any other  
Person that shall de-  
fire that Ground; to  
the End, That the  
Mines may not lye  
Waste and Neglected;  
but that the KING,  
and the Publick, may  
Receive the Benefit  
thereof.

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Article

## Art. VI.

**T**HAT no Person  
or Persons, So-  
ciety or Societies of  
Men, shall take up or  
Possess above Forty  
Meers of Ground to-  
gether, in any Rake,  
Veyn, or Pipe-Work,  
without leaving an  
Inter-

Interval, or Space of  
Ten Meers of Ground  
at least, for other  
Adventurers; for the  
Reason of giving all  
the KING's Subjects  
Encouragement to  
Venture, and to set  
the Field or Mine  
more fully at Work,  
for the Publick Good.  
But in all Flat-Works  
of *Gold*, or any of the  
before - mentioned

E Me-

38 *Royal Institutions.*

*Metals, Minerals, Stones,*  
or *Salts*, every Man  
shall have as many  
Meers of Ground,  
as he or they have  
sett-on Stowes, being  
Twenty Nine Yards  
Square, upon the  
Superficies of the  
Ground, for every  
Pair of Stowes; and  
for every Man suc-  
cessively, sooner or  
later, according to  
his

his or their Taking,  
Stowing, and Work-  
ing the same, as a-  
fore-said.

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## Art. VII.

**T**HAT all *Miners*,  
and *Adventurers*,  
shall have the Tim-  
ber of the Countrey,  
E 2 (where

40 *Royal Institutions.*

(where the Grounds are not enclosed) for the use of their Mines, to Work and Uphold the same, and to Smelt and Refine their Oars with, or to do and perform any other Service or Business, their Occasions shall require, in and about the Mines; And Liberty to Dress, Wash, and Cleanse their Oars



*Royal Institutions.* 4F

Oars from the Earth,  
and Rubbish, whether  
they be *Silver*, *Gold*,  
*Copper*, or any other  
*Metal*, *Stones*, or *Salt*, as  
before-mentioned, in  
the most fit and con-  
venient Places they  
can find; and shall  
Build, and set up  
Smelting Mills, or  
Melting and Refining  
Houses for the same;  
and shall have Ways,

E 3      with

42 *Royal Institutions.*

with free Egreſs and Regreſs, to Paſs and Repaſs, to and from the Mines, with any Carriages; and the Benefit of the Water, where-ever they ſhall find it. And when the Oars ſhall be Cleanſed from the Earth, and Rubbiſh, and made fit for Melting and Refining, before any of the Oar  
is

is Removed, Conveyed, and Carried away from the Ground, where it is got, to Smelt, or Refine, or any other Ways to be disposed off by the Owners, Diggers, or Getters of the same; The KING's Officer, or his Deputy, or some such Person, as is before-mentioned, shall be sent for, to Measure  
fure

#### 44 *Royal Institutions.*

sure or Weigh the same. And when the *Bar-Master*, or his Deputy, hath taken the Sixth Part of all *Gold* and *Silver Oars*, and the Twelfth Part of all *Copper*, *Lead*, *Tin*, and *Quick-Silver Oars*, and the like for *Precious Stones*, and *Salt-Petre*, as afore-said, for the Use of the *KING*; Then the *Miner*, or  
Main-

*Royal Institutions.* 45

*Maintainer*, shall have  
Liberty to Sell and  
Dispose of the Rest,  
to his or their best  
Advantage; or to  
Smelt and Refine the  
same, as he or they  
that Owns them think  
fit; And after it is  
made into *Copper, Lead,*  
or *Tin*, shall and may  
(if he or they please)  
Smoke off the *Base*  
*Metal*, or Refine their  
Oars,

46 *Royal Institutions.*

Oars, before they are Melted, by *Quick-Silver*, or *Corrosive-Waters*, or any other Way, to the best of his or their Advantage, according as his or their Skill and Judgment shall direct them, either in Oars, or in Metal, as he or they think fit.

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Article

## Art. VIII.

**T**HAT if it shall  
so happen, that  
Two Veyns of *Silver*,  
*Gold*, *Copper*, or any o-  
ther Metal, shall run  
or go along One by  
the Side of Another,  
and shall be parted  
by a Rither or Rock  
of

48 *Royal Institutions.*

of Stone Three Foot Thick, or more; That then they shall be Held and Account- ed for Two Rakes or Veyns; and he or they that Found the First Veyn, shall Hold and Enjoy that in his or their own Right; for each Pair of Stowes, a Meer of Ground, as is before-said: And so likewise shall he or they



they that Found and  
Discovered the other  
Veyn or Rake, so run-  
ing near, and going  
along by the Side of  
the Veyn first Found,  
according to his or  
their Crossing, Ta-  
king, and Possessing of  
the same with Stowes,  
one Meer of Ground  
for each Pair of  
Stowes; and so eve-  
ry Man, sooner or la-  
F ter,

50 *Royal Institutions.*

ter, according to his  
or their Taking and  
Stowing. But if these  
Two Rakes or Veyns  
run One into Ano-  
ther, and continue so,  
or go so near toge-  
ther, that the Rither  
or Rock, which parts  
them, may be got,  
without Blasting and  
Blowing down of the  
same Rock with Gun-  
Powder; Then they  
shall

*Royal Institutions.* 51

shall be Taken, Held,  
and Accounted for  
one Veyn; and he or  
they that was the first  
*Finders*, or *Owners* of  
the Veyn first Found,  
shall Enjoy the same,  
so long as they conti-  
nue thus together:  
But if these two Rakes,  
or Veyns, or any o-  
ther Rake or Veyn,  
Intersect and Cross  
one another Diame-

52 *Royal Institutions.*

trically, as thus,  $\times$  or  
obliquely, in this man-  
ner,



He that first comes to,  
and finds the Place, or  
Point of Interfection,  
shall Hold and Enjoy  
the same: That is to  
say, He shall Hold  
and Enjoy his own  
Veyn, as A.———A.  
in his own Right, and  
Three Foot of either  
Side

Side into the Veyn-  
B————B, as far as  
the Black Spots .. be-  
yond which, being  
Three Foot, of either  
Side, from the Point  
of Intersection, to-  
wards B————B, he  
shall not Work, up-  
on the Pain of For-  
feiting the double Va-  
lue of the Oar got  
therein, without any  
Cost or Charges to  
F 3 the

54 *Royal Institutions:*

the Wronged Person,  
if that Veyn or Rake  
B————B belong to  
any other Person or  
Persons; and this  
Point of Intersection  
shall be called the P,  
to distinguish it: But  
if the Veyn B————B  
be a New Veyn, and  
no other Person in  
Possession of it; Then  
it is, and shall be  
Lawful for the *Finder*  
there—

*Royal Institutions.* 55

thereof to Take and Possess it, and Hold it in his own Right. And if any Person shall Work upon the Front and Forefield of another Man's Rake or Veyn, and shall be thought and judged to Work in the same Veyn that another Man, at some Distance, had first in Work, and was Possess of;

56 *Royal Institutions.*

of; Then the Person that thinks himself Wronged, shall apply himself to the *Bar-Master*, or his Deputy, and desire him to keep an Account of all the Oar got therein; and before the *Getters*, or *Owners* thereof, shall carry it, or any of it away, or shall Smelt, Melt, or Refine any of the same into *Silver*,



*ver, Gold, or any other Metal, he or they shall give Bond to the Owners of the first Veyn, That, if by Workmanship, in Length of Time, these Two Places proves to be one and the same Veyn, to return the full value of the Oar got therein, to the Owners or Finders of the first Veyn, without Stop-  
ing*

58 *Royal Institutions.*

ing or Deducting any  
Cost or Charges for  
Getting the same;  
and if he or they re-  
fuse to give Bond,  
then the Oar shall be  
Stopt, and Seized for  
the Use of the first  
Owners, by the Bar-  
Master, or his Deputy,  
till further Workman-  
ship shall make the  
Truth appear, whe-  
ther they be one and  
the

the same Veyn or no;  
and to whether of  
them, the Place in  
Question and Dispute,  
doth appertain and  
belong. —

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## Art. IX.

**T**HAT whereas it  
is most Natural  
and Customary, for  
*Gold*

60 *Royal Institutions.*

*Gold* to lye in the Earth in Flat-Work; therefore, when any *Gold*, *Silver*, *Copper*, or the Oars of any other Metal, shall be found to lye in Flat-Work, he or they who first Findeth the same, and Croffeth, Breaketh Ground, and Sets on Stowes within Three Days Time next after such Flat-Work  
is

is Found, shall have  
as many Meers of  
Ground in that Flat-  
Work, as he or they  
shall Set on Stowes  
in Three Days Time  
next Ensuing the  
Finding, Crossing, and  
Taking thereof, each  
Meer of Ground con-  
taining Twenty Nine  
Yards of Ground  
Square, upon the  
Superficies; within  
G which

62 *Royal Institutions.*

which Length and  
Compass of Ground,  
no other Person or  
Persons shall presume  
to Dig, Work, or Car-  
ry the same away,  
without the Leave  
and Consent of the  
first Finder, or Owners  
thereof. But if any  
other Person or Per-  
sons, shall find any o-  
ther Veyn or Veyns,  
Rake or Rakes, that  
shall

*Royal Institutions.* 63

shall sink Perpendicular or Hadeing, within the Limits or Compass of that Ground so Taken; Possess, and Stowed up for Flat-Work, as afore-said; That then it is, and shall be Lawful to and for the first Finders, or Owners of those Rakes, and Veyns, to Hold, Work, and Enjoy the same, & all the Product.

G 2 there-

64 *Royal Institutions.*

thereof, that shall be  
got within the Com-  
pass and Bounds of  
those Rakes or Veyns,  
without any Distur-  
bance or Hindrance  
from or by the Owners  
or Masters of the Flat-  
Works; because such  
Rakes and Veyns lye  
in the Earth after a-  
nother Manner, and  
Nature, quite diffe-  
rent to Flat-Works,  
and



and are Separate Things; And so (successively) every one in the same Rakes or Veyns, according to his or their Taking, and Possessing with Stowes, sooner or latter, shall be served, Hold and Enjoy the Meers of Ground so Taken, and Possess, in those Rakes and Veyns. And if there

G 3 be

66 *Royal Institutions.*

be no Veyns or Rakes  
Found within that  
Compas of Ground,  
so Taken and Posselt  
for Flat - Work, but  
the Flat - Work shall  
continue, and extend  
it self, bearing Gold, or  
the Oars of any other  
Metal, further, and  
beyond the Limits of  
the Ground so Pos-  
selt with Stowes, as  
afore - said; for Flat-  
Works,

*Royal Institutions. 67*

Works; That then the  
first and next Taken;  
Possessor, and Stower of  
the next adjoyning  
Ground, shall Hold  
and Enjoy as many  
Meers of Ground,  
each Meer contain-  
ing Twenty Nine  
Yards of Square  
Ground upon the Su-  
perficies, as he or they  
have Taken, and Set  
on Stowes for the  
same

68. *Royal Institutions.*

same Flat-Work, with-  
in the Time afore-  
said; and so, succes-  
sively, every other  
Person or Persons  
shall be served, soon-  
er or later, accord-  
ing to his or their Ta-  
king, Possessing, and  
Stowing up of the  
same Flat-Work; be  
it in *Gold Mines*, or in  
*Seams and Beds of*  
*Salt-Petre*, or *Precious*  
*Stones*

*Royal Institutions.* 69

*Stones* lying in the  
Earth, Soyl, or Rocks,  
in Flat-Works, as a-  
fore-said; or any o-  
ther Metal and Oars,  
lying in the same man-  
ner whatsoever.

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Article

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**Art. X.**

**T**HAT where any  
Oars shall be  
got, made, and run in-  
to Copper, Lead, Tin, or  
Quick-Silver, all and  
every Part of those  
Metals, that shall be  
used and spent in the  
Countrey, where they  
are

*Royal Institutions.* 71

are got, shall Pay no other Duty to the KING, but only that before - mentioned; for the Reason of giving the Inhabitants, and Adventurers, all the Encouragement, that may be, to Work the Mines, and to Carry on the Field. But if the Finders, Getters, or Owners thereof, or any other Person, shall have

72 *Royal Institutions.*

have a mind, and finds  
it for his or their Be-  
nefit and Advantage,  
to Transport and Ship  
them, or any of them,  
from the Countries  
where they are got,  
to other Places be-  
yond the Seas, he or  
they that Ships them,  
shall Pay for every  
Tunn of Copper to  
Shipt, Twenty Shil-  
lings to the KING's  
Offi-



Officer, for the Use of  
the KING; and the  
same Sum of Twenty  
Shillingsthe Tunn, for  
*Salt - Petre*, and *Tin*;  
and Five Pounds for  
every Tunn of *Quick-*  
*Silver* so Shipt off, and  
Transported from the  
Countries where they  
are got: For the Pay-  
ment of which Du-  
ties, and the Twelfth  
Part or Caract of all

H

Pre-

## 74 Royal Institutions.

*Precious Stones*, as a-  
fore-said, All Diggers,  
Finders, Owners, Buyers,  
Adventurers, or Dealers  
therein, or in any of  
them, shall have free  
Liberty to Sell, Ship,  
and Transport them  
to any Part or Place  
whatsoever, to the  
best of his or their  
Advantage.

*The End of the Articles.*

ALL

**A**LL which Methods, Rules, and Articles, that they, and every of them, may be Enacted, Establish-  
ed, and Confirm-  
ed by the King's  
H<sup>2</sup> most

most Excellent Majesty, and this present Parliament, now Assembled, as  
L A W S and C U -  
S T O M S, hereaf-  
ter to be Practi-  
fed, Used, and  
Observed by all  
the Subjects of the  
H Crown

Crown of England;  
in all Parts of Afri-  
ca, and America,  
for the Discover-  
ing, Working, and  
Carrying on any of  
the Mines before-  
mentioned, when  
and where they, or  
any of them, shall

H 3 be

78 *Royal Institutions.*

be Found, is the  
most Humble Pe-  
tition and Request  
of a well - Wisher  
to the Nation's In-  
terest,

**T. B.**

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Post-

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# Postscript.

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TO THE  
L O R D S  
*Spiritual and Temporal,*  
Together with the  
C O M M O N S,  
*Assembled in this present*  
P A R L I A M E N T.

Gentlemen,

**I**T is Worth your  
Thoughts & Con-  
siderations, to En-  
quire

80 POSTSCRIPT.

quire into the Reasons and Causes, Why no *English King, Prince, Noble - Man, Merchant,* or any other Person of Heroick Spirit, should not, in all this Time, since *America* hath been Discovered, endeavour to be Master of *Silver and Gold Mines*, as well as the *Spaniards*; there being in many Places of *America*,



POSTSCRIPT. 81

*America*, now in the Hands of the *Englifo*, as Rich, and as Plentiful *Veyns* and *Mines* to be Found, as any the *Spaniards* have in *Peru*, or *New - Spain*. But one Reason of this Misfortune, I believe to be this; He that hath had Substance, to have undertaken this Enterprife, hath wanted Skill, and durst

## 82 POSTSCRIPT.

durst not Trust another with a small Stock out of Sight; nor would not go himself with such as had Judgment therein: Or, He that hath had Skill, hath wanted Money, and Encouragement, to Manage and Carry on this Affair, and so could not undertake it, for want of a Stock; and as yet, no Person hath

POSTSCRIPT. 83

hath Petitioned any  
KING OR PRINCE,  
about it: However, it  
is plain, and too true,  
the Mines have been  
Neglected, which one  
would think, since all  
the Kings, Princes, Gran-  
dees, and Persons of E-  
states, in Europe, have  
known, That for 150  
Years last past, the  
Spaniards have import-  
ed at Cales, from Ten  
to

84 POSTSCRIPT.

to Forty Millions a Year, in *Silver* and *Gold*, besides many *Precious Stones*, and other *Rich Commodities*, of great Value. The Knowledge of which, one would imagine, should have strongly induced some other *Prince*, or *Heroick Spirited Men*, to have used all their Endeavours to have Found and Discover-  
ed

ed such Mines ; and have given them sufficient Cause to have pursued the same, by sending such Persons about this Affair, as well Understandeth such Things: But the chief Reason and Mischief, that these Mines have layn so long Neglected, is, Because a few PROPRIETORS (as is before recited in

I

the

## 86 POSTSCRIPT.

the PREFACE,) having, together with the Land, got Grants from the Crown, of the Royalties, where Mines, and Mineral Countries are; and not using any effectual Means to Discover the Mines themselves, at their Charge, the Enterprize hath remained intricate, and no ways feasible to Others,

POSTSCRIPT. 87

Others, by Reason of those Grants; all other Persons being prohibited to engage therein. For, to what purpose shall a Man spend his Time, Labour, and Money, to Enrich Others, by Seeking for That, which, when he hath found, neither He, nor his Heirs, shall Enjoy, nor any part thereof:

88 POSTSCRIPT.

*To Engage in this, would be perfect Madness. This is the chief Reason, why the English are not Masters of Silver and Gold Mines, as well as the Spaniards; and not the want of such Mines, being within the English Territories and Dominions; for if this Sore was once Cured, The English would have a Plate-Fleet, in*



# POSTSCRIPT. 89

a few Years, Arrive  
in *England*, as well as  
the *Flota* doth in *Spain*.  
How great the Loss of  
which hath been, and  
is, and how Accepta-  
ble and Profitable the  
Discovering of such  
Mines, and an Arrival  
of a *Platt-Fleet* Year-  
ly in *England*, would  
be, I leave every one  
to Judge, that knows  
the Use and Service

of *Silver and Gold*: And the Cause and Causes, why there are no such Mines Wrought in *America*, but what are Wrought by the *Spaniards*, are only the Reasons afore-said; concerning which, I hope, I have said sufficient; and that some better Care will be taken, for the Future, whereby all those Grants,

POSTSCRIPT. 91

Grants, relating to the Mines in *America*, may be Null'd, Revok'd, and made Void, (only in such Clauses as concern Mines,) by the *King's most Excellent Majesty*, and the Prudence of this Present *Parliament*; and that the KING hereafter may remain sole Lord of the Field, and Royalties, in all Parts  
of

of *Africa*, and *America*,  
 that are now, or shall  
 be, Annexed to the  
 CROWN of *England*,  
 &c. The *Indians*, both  
 on the *South* and *North*  
 Side the *Æquinoctial*,  
 had Found the Mines,  
 and Wrought in them  
 (after their Fashion)  
 for above Three Hun-  
 dred Years before the  
*Spaniards* came there;  
 or else most of the  
 Mines

POSTSCRIPT. 93

Mines had layn Undiscovered to this Day, by Reason of the *Spaniards* Laziness; for the *Indians* of *Peru*, having Lived some Hundreds of Years in a civiliz'd Government, before the *Spaniards* Arrival, had Wrought the Mines, and got great Quantities of *Silver* and *Gold*, although they were in  
no

94 POSTSCRIPT.

no proper way of Working them, nor had any Iron or Steel-ed Tools, fit for the Service of the Mines; but only Tools of Copper, which they Valued more than *Silver* or *Gold*, in regard the Tools and Utensils of Copper were most serviceable for their Domestick Affairs, and all other Oc-

POSTSCRIPT. 95

Occasions, in their Times: So that, for many Years, wherever the *Spaniards* came, unless they Found Vessels of Silver and Gold in the *Indians* Houses, or somewhere Wore about them, at their Ears, Lips, Necks, or Noses; or was conducted, by the *Indians*, to the Mines, and Places,

96 POSTSCRIPT.

ces, where the *Silver*  
and *Gold* had been got,  
The best and Richest  
Mines, the *Spaniards*  
now have, lay Void,  
and for a long Time  
Unwrought; being no  
more taken Notice  
of, than some Mine-  
ral Countries now are  
by the *Englisb*, in feve-  
ral Parts of *America*.  
And the best Method  
(for Gathering and  
Ta-



Taking up *Gold*,) most of the *Spaniards* had, for many Years, was only to Cleanse and Scower up the small Rivers and Brooks of the Countrey, falling from the Mountains; from the Sands whereof, they Gathered much *Gold*, without the Experience of Digging, Mining, and Sink-  
ing of Shafts, to seek

K

for

for Veyns and Rakes:  
The Knowledge of  
which hath not been  
many Years Under-  
stood, and Practised  
by them; nor is yet  
Understood, Used,  
and Practised to that  
Heighth, and to such  
Advantage, as it might  
be. So that, in ma-  
ny Places, which are  
now in the Possession  
of the *English*, there  
was

was never any Shafts  
Sunk, and put down,  
either by the *Englisb*,  
or the *Spaniards*; their  
chief Objects, and Pla-  
ces of Tryal, being  
only the Surface of  
the Earth, with the  
Brooks and Rivers,  
as afore - said. And  
therefore it remains,  
without Contradicti-  
on, there is all the pro-  
bable Signs and Sym-

# 100 POSTSCRIPT.

promises of Rich Veyns  
to be had, and Found,  
for Digging and Seek-  
ing for. And to this  
Day, the best Me-  
thod and Way that is  
Known, Practised, and  
Used by the *Spaniards*,  
and *Indians*, for Ga-  
thering and Taking  
up *Gold*, in Flat-Work,  
is as followeth: The  
*Spaniards* set their *In-  
dians* and *Negro* Slaves  
out

POSTSCRIPT. 101

out a Parcel of Ground, Forty or Fifty Yards Square, more or less, as the Patroon or Master thinks fit; which Ground, the Indians and Slaves Dig up as Deep as they Find any Gold in it; and as they Dig it, throw it into Wheel-Barrows; which being done; their other Slaves run it away to the next

102 POSTSCRIPT.

River, or Running-Brook, and there lays it down, and Returns for more; and in this Manner they Labour, till their Days Work is done, in Digging and carrying of Earth. At the River, or Running Brook, there are also several other *Indian* Women, Boys, Girls, or Slaves, at Work, having Bowls,  
or

POSTSCRIPT. 103

or small Treays with  
Handles; where a Ne-  
gro Boy or Girl, ha-  
ving first broken and  
beaten the Lumps of  
Earth small, where, by  
Reason of the Heat,  
it immediately dryes;  
which when it is dry,  
they put about an  
Engliff Peck of that  
small Earth, so beaten  
and dried, into one  
of those Treays, as  
afore-

104 POSTSCRIPT.

afore-said, at a Time;  
and then the Woman  
shakes and dances it  
about in the Water,  
turning the Bowl or  
Trey about and a-  
bout, till the Water  
hath Washt away all  
the Earth, and Rub-  
bish; and what *Gold* is  
in it, sinks, and re-  
mains at the Bottom;  
which not being ful-  
ly Cleaned from the  
Earth,



POSTSCRIPT. 105

Earth, is put into a Bowl that stands by, to undergo a second and a third Cleansing. And in this Manner, the Women, Boys, and Girls, renew filling of their Treays and Bowls, with that Earth, till their Days Work is done; and so daily gather more or less *Gold*, according as it happens, and as that  
Flat-

## 106 POSTSCRIPT.

Flat-Work is more or less Plentiful of *Gold*; Pursuing this Method in Digging, Carrying, and Washing, as long as that Earth hath any *Gold* in it worth their Labour; and then they remove to another Place. After this Way, they Work out all their Earth and Land, that lies near Rivers, or Running-Brooks,

POSTSCRIPT. 107

Brooks, that hath *Gold* in it; but where the *Gold* lies at a great Distance from any Running Water, they are obliged to let all alone, or else to lose the greatest Part of the *Gold* that is small; for in such Places that are remote from the Water, (as on the Tops and Plains of the Mountains, where there is

108 POSTSCRIPT.

is generally the most plentiful Store of *Gold*) the best Ways they Use or Understand to gather it there, are these: They Dig the Earth, Dry it, then Beat it small, and Sift it; which done, they Spread or Strow it thin upon the Ground, and there it lies, till the next Showers of Rain Wash it, and then they

POSTSCRIPT. 109

they pick out what  
*Gold* they can; which  
being done, they  
draw the Earth up  
and down with Coal-  
Rakes, or turn it with  
Shovels, and spread it  
thin again, and let it  
lye till other Rains  
wash it, and so pick it  
over again; which O-  
peration, being twice  
or thrice Repeated,  
and having taken  
L what

## 110 POSTSCRIPT.

what *Gold* they can out  
this Way, they then  
shovel all the Earth  
together upon Heaps;  
and if there be no  
Pools or standing Wa-  
ters near, they make  
Ponds or Pools, which  
when the Rain-Water  
hath filled, they carry  
that Earth, so laid up-  
on Heaps, thither,  
and wash it, with their  
Treays and Bowls, in  
those

## POSTSCRIPT. III

those Pools, as afore-  
said: And by this  
Means they get some  
more *Gold*, although  
most of the fine and  
small *Gold* is quite lost,  
because the Water of  
those standing Pools  
soon grows dirty and  
muddy, and thereby  
rendred unfit to sepe-  
rate the fine dust *Gold*  
from the Earth, for  
want of clear running-

## III2 POSTSCRIPT.

Waters; which Error, and Defect, might easily be amended, and all the *Gold*, though never so small, preserved, if they understood the way of *Husbing*, and using long Buddles, and Landers: As much *Gold* might be taken up in a Month, by the same Number of Hands, as they now take up in  
Seven



POSTSCRIPT. 113

Seven Years: But, whether this be a proper Place, and a fit Time, to Shew and Describe the Way of *Husbing*, and Using these Buddles and Landers, I know not, till I find what Reception and Countenance these ARTICLES will meet with. And if the Design of this Book meets with En-

L 3      cou-

## 114 POSTSCRIPT.

couragement, I will Publish a Book, Entitled, *The Royal Miner*; (in which, the whole Method and Progress of Digging, Working, and Carrying on of Mines, from the first Beginning, or Breaking of Ground, to the Melting, Refining, and Making the Oars into Metal, shall be clearly Taught and De-

POSTSCRIPT. 115

Described; together,  
with all the Work-  
Tools, Instruments,  
and Materials, Used in  
and about the Mines:  
As also, what Inci-  
dents, or Accidents,  
Prejudicial, or Profit-  
-able, hath, doth, and  
may attend the same,  
as far as Art, or Na-  
ture, hath Discovered  
these things to Hu-  
mane Reason: In all  
which,

## III POSTSCRIPT.

which, (I may say, without Boasting,) I have had long Experience, and am as capable to Acquaint Posterity with, as any Person extant, having, for Six and Twenty Years past, been universally concerned in Mines, in all, or most of the Mineral Countries of England, not only as a Partner, Master,

POSTSCRIPT. 117

*ster*, or *Owner* of them;  
but in the Practick  
Part of their Work-  
man-ship, from the  
Beginning, to the  
End: ) In which Book,  
I will describe the Me-  
thod of these Bud-  
dles and Landers, for  
*Husbing*, and the most  
proper Way of taking  
up, and gathering of  
*Gold*, with many Use-  
ful and Beneficial Di-  
rections

## 118 POSTSCRIPT.

rections and Instructions, in and about the Mines, and Mineral Countries of *England*, and other Places, shall be fully set out and described. In the Interim, If this small Book should fall into the Hands of any Detractors, who, through Ignorance, or Envy, shall exclaim against any thing herein

POSTSCRIPT. 119

herein mentioned, or  
hereby intended; I  
shall only give such  
Persons this modest  
Reproof, *Quis nisi*  
*mentis inops oblatum re-*  
*spuat aurum?* and he  
may well be reckon-  
ed a weak Man, if not  
a Fool, that will cen-  
sure, slight, or con-  
demn any thing, in  
which he never acqui-  
red sufficient Know-  
ledge



## 120 POSTSCRIPT.

ledge to be a competent and fit Judge.

Gentlemen,

I would not have You, or any of You, think, or believe, that *Gold*, and *Silver*, or the Oars of any other Metals, lyes in the Earth, in such Plenty, or in such a Manner, as to discover themselves to every vulgar  
or



POSTSCRIPT. 121

or unskillful Eye ;  
however, it is certain,  
There is great Plenty,  
and many Rich Veyns  
to be Found in the  
*English* Territories; &  
for what I have men-  
tioned before, con-  
cerning a *Plate-Fleet*  
coming Yearly into  
*England*, if Liberty, and  
fit Encouragement, be  
given, I will Under-  
take to Effect and Per-

M form

## 122 POSTSCRIPT.

form it. And, if any of You desires further Information in this Affair, I am ready to Acquaint You with it, when You Command me; and to Shew You *how, where, and by what Ways* and Means the same may be Effected; so that, if Liberty and Encouragement may be given, I doubt not, but  
to

POSTSCRIPT. 123

to have Five Hundred *Miners* at Work, in Two Years Time; by which, with some *Negroes*, and other Persons, that I will Cause to be brought to them, in Two Years Time more, I question not, but to make the Mines flourish to a greater Degree, than I shall now Speak of.

124 POSTSCRIPT.

To Conclude; All that I seek herein, is, That the King's most Excellent Majesty, and this August Assembly of Parliament, would be Graciously Pleased, (if in their great Wisdom, it may be thought fit,) to take away, and remove all those Obstructions, which hitherto have Ruined this Honourable

POSTSCRIPT. 125

nable Enterprize; and  
that, for the Future,  
they would Settle and  
Confirm either the a-  
fore-going ARTI-  
CLES, or some o-  
ther Fundamental  
LAWS and CUSTOMS,  
for the Mines before-  
mentioned; whereby  
all Free-Born Sub-  
jects of the CROWN  
of *England*, may have  
Liberty, and full Pow-  
M. 3 er,

126 POSTSCRIPT.

er, of Using their Endeavours, to improve their own Interests, together with the Revenues of the CROWN: Which is the most Humble Desire, and Petition, of a *Well-Wisher* to his KING, and Countrey,

*Thom. Houghton.*

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F I N I S.

